

BUSINESS & LABOR
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 2-19-15
BILL NO. SB 337

Subject: Bill Barron
From: Dan L <cgitw225@gmail.com>
Date: 2/18/2015 8:52 AM
To: Grandad Bob Larsson <pinehaven@blackfoot.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Bill Barron" <bbarron@lakemt.gov>
Date: Feb 18, 2015 8:34 AM
Subject: RE: Pinehaven
To: "Dan L" <cgitw225@gmail.com>
Cc:

Dan,

I'm sorry I just got your message this morning. I am not at my office. Please relay my adamant opposition to this bill. In my 30 year career in law enforcement Pinehaven is a most needed facility that I helped get my niece into. I truly believe your school saved her life. She is now a beautiful thriving young lady. Your cooperation with my office was beyond reproach, much better than our regular schools. GOOD LUCK!!!

Bill Barron

Bill Barron swerved as sheriff of Lake
County and is currently Lake County
Commissioner

1/13/2014

I fully recommend Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch to anyone wanting to place a child or send financial support.

I have been a supporter of Pinehaven since its inception. I participated in the ground breaking at Arlee, Montana. I have followed and participated in the ministry of the Children's Ranch.

I am a minister and have served several congregations in Montana. I retired from the ministry in 2010 but since have come out of retirement to assist the Crossroads Christian Church in its recovery efforts here in Helena, Montana. I am the director of the Northwest Schools of Mission and have worked with churches all over the Northwest United States and I am on the board of International Disaster and Emergency Services (IDES).

Helena is located in the State Capital of Montana. Over the last 7 years those who want to destroy the ministry of Pinehaven have had several legislators attempt to bring Pinehaven under the Department of Health & Human Services division of the State Government. Pinehaven was originally licensed by DHHS but that hindered the effectiveness of the Ranch program so Pinehaven rejected that license and operates under the Biblical definition of what pure religion is as found in James 1:27

"This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

Pinehaven operates under the authority of the Eldership of St. Ignatius Christian Church, St. Ignatius, Montana. The Ranch is a religious ministry of the church. Both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Montana guarantees the freedom of the practice of religion. This limits government intrusion under these important documents. The Montana State Attorney General was asked to investigate the Ranch and his office discovered that there was nothing to the claims being brought against the Ranch. That Attorney General is now our State Governor.

This is important. If the Ranch was to have a separate board outside of the Eldership of the church it would lose its designation as a ministry of the local church, making it a separate entity and therefore subject to DHHS requirements. That would defeat the effectiveness of the Ranch program.

The Ranch itself.

Many of these children are at Pinehaven as a last resort and need good solid loving discipline. Having these children in the public school caused a lot of problems so the Ranch operates its own school. Each child has chores to do.

Most of the young women's chores center (but not limited to) around housekeeping and the young men have outside ranch duties beside their personal space. They hand milk cows, bail and stack 65lb bales of hay, cut and stack firewood and help in repairing things.

Its not all work every year the whole ranch participates in the "round up" going to Christian

Our contact information:
(406) 745-4545 Office phoffice@blackfoot.net
(406) 546-9015 Dan cgitw225@gmail.com
(406) 745-3081 Bob pinehaven@blackfoot.net
(406) 745-3095 Fax

UPS address: PINEHAVEN, 410 St. Mary's Dr.
St. Ignatius, MT 59865
www.pinehaven.us
Mail to: Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch
Box 940, St. Ignatius, MT. 59865-0940

PINEHAVEN is supported by the gifts of God's people.
If you wish to make a gift, the form at the right is for
your convenience. Please PRAY for us too !

2014 at Pinehaven is well underway as we
continue to Work, Play, and Grow closer to
our Lord and Savior! Late winter has been
characterized by Snow, Snow, and Yes...more
SNOW! As winter melts away and new calves
are born, we are anticipating a beautiful
Spring! We are Blessed beyond belief!

Thank You for being a Ministry Partner!



Winter and Good Times

Here is my gift of \$ _____ for PINEHAVEN

Use it for:

New Building

Life House Ministry

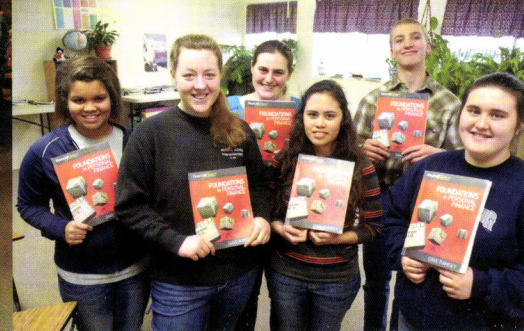
As Needed

Name _____

Address _____

3/14

GOOD NEWS FROM PINEHAVEN



A Recent Graduate's Progress Letter

May 22, 2014

Regarding A Graduate:

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been (Student's Name) teacher this year for the majority of his subjects (Bible, English, Math, Science, and Social Studies). I have interacted with him on almost a daily basis during the school year either in my capacity as his teacher and school principal, or as the minister of the congregation where (Student) attends church. As a result, I have gotten to see (Student) in a variety of circumstances.

Academically, (Student) is doing fine and will graduate from high school on June 1, 2014. He has worked hard to overcome a credit deficit in English, earning 1.5 credits this year instead of the usual 1.0 credits. He works hard in all his subjects, and he makes good use of his class time. He is not what I would call a "natural" student, but he works hard and gets good grades. At this point, he has not expressed an interest in attending college, but he could succeed in college if he changes his mind.

Socially, (Student) is very friendly, fitting in well with, and accepted by, his peers. He is a consistently a good example to them, something I believe he applies himself to intentionally. He considers the effect he's having on others and tries to conduct himself in such a way as to benefit them. (Student) has turned into a real leader, encouraging and motivating the other students. He is reliable and trustworthy, and I know that if I ask him to do something, he will do it to the best of his ability.

I have not personally had any discipline problems with (Student). He has submitted to my authority as teacher, principal, and minister, in every way that I could ask or expect. I would have no hesitation in recommending him to an employer for employment, or in any other capacity for which he might be suited.

Respectfully submitted,
Pinehaven School Principal

Letters Received

Note from the Ozark Christian College outreach team after a week of visiting and working on the ranch:

To Our Pinehaven friends,

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www.pinehaven.net

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Here is my gift of \$ _____ for PINEHAVEN

Use it for: _____

New Building _____

Life House Ministry _____

As Needed _____

Name _____ Address _____ 6/14

Spring is a wonderful time of change as the weather warms and our Graduates are ready to tackle the world for Christ! The calves also need tackling so we can give them the PH Bar brand. The balance of Eternity rides on whether or not these young people decide to wear Christ's brand. Rejoice with us in their decisions!

Thank You for being a Ministry Partner!

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Graduation, Roundup, & Spring

GOOD NEWS FROM PINEHAVEN



Recent Letters

August 26th 2014

Hello Bob,

I wanted to thank you for following God's will for your life and starting the ranch. The ranch has made a huge difference in my life. I appreciate everything the people did there for me. To me each and every person there is family and I love you all so much.

Since I have been home my mother and I have been getting closer. Our relationship is better now, than it was 3 years ago. My father is believing in God more and so is my aunt. My brother and I actually are brother and sister now and not enemies.

I don't need a degree to serve my God. I serve Him every day with my life so I am gonna go to job corps and take business classes. After I graduate I am gonna move to Detroit where I plan to work with young adults and teens so they can get to know who Christ is and so they have a safe place to go and get off the streets.

Life hasn't been easy. I definitely miss the ranch. It was a big part of my life. Well it still is. I talk about the ranch almost every day and I talk about all my brothers and sisters. That place has made a huge impact on my life. It is part of me. I still talk to kids who I lived with that have graduated or left.

Pinehaven has changed my life for the better. If it wasn't for Pinehaven I would either be dead or in jail. You literally saved my life. I can't thank you enough for all you have done.

Please keep following God's will and saving other children. If you ever need someone to help testify for Pinehaven or anything, I will love to help you fight the people who choose to believe the lies and try to shut Pinehaven down. I Love You.

God Bless You All !!

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This Montana Summer has been a Blessing! Putting up Firewood, Vegetables, and Hay Keeps us and our Visiting Supporters Busy and Prepared for the upcoming Winter. The Students have been having fun at Camp and other Activities while School is out. Once Again, We get to share multiple pictures of Students who decided to Serve Christ Eternally! Thank You for being a Ministry Partner!



Summer, Camp, & Changed Lives

Here is my gift of \$ _____ for PINEHAVEN

Use it for: _____
New Building _____
Life House Ministry _____
As Needed _____
Name _____ Address _____ 9/14

GOOD NEWS FROM PINEHAVEN



RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FROM STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS

What Pinehaven has done for me is it helped me with school education & with my anger and respect to others & disible

Sincerely
P.S.

It helped me become a better person and be baptized into the Lord & how to treat others when mad too.

P.P.S.

I would really recomend to other kids who need a place to stay and get together

Bob + Nancy,

Thank you for all you do to make Christmas at Pinehaven special but more so for following your dreams so all of us can have a Second Chance at life. Pinehaven has changed my life so much.

Thanks again.
Love Always

To everyone at Pinehaven, thank you, for a wonderful week! I thank God for all of you who give so much of yourselves for the glory of God. I enjoyed the trip more than any thing I have ever done, and I will do it again. Also I pray daily for you all, and that God rise up house-parents to their calling at Pinehaven...

www.pinehaven.net

St. Ignatius, MT 59865

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Box 940, St. Ignatius, MT. 59865-0940

Mail to: Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch

Here is my gift of \$ _____ for PINEHAVEN

Use it for: _____

New Building _____

Life House Ministry _____

As Needed _____

12/14

Name _____

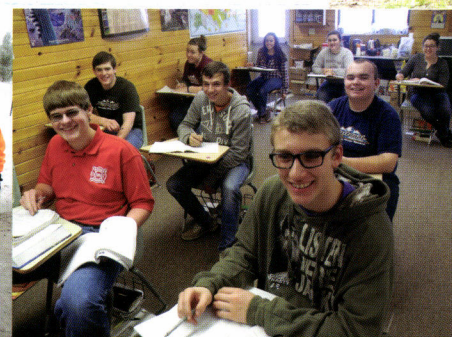
Address _____

Beautiful Fall & Inbound Winter
Fall has Brought a Flurry of Activities to Pinehaven! Our Back Pack Camping Trip Was a Wonderful Mountain Top Experience. School is in Full Swing and the Hunting Season is almost Over. With Snow Descending From the Sky, it's Time to Slip and Slide Down Down One of Our Many Hills! This Time of Year we are Extremely Grateful for our Pool! Our Staff and Kids Look forward to Christmas! PINEHAVEN is supported by the gifts of God's people. If you wish to make a gift, the form at the right is for your convenience. Please PRAY for us too! Thank You for being a Ministry Partner! Our contact information:

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MERRY PINEHAVEN CHRISTMAS!



Pinehaven Christian Children's Ranch is one of the best things that has ever happened to me. It has given me the chance to learn the truth and follow God. It also gave me the chance to turn my life from the wrong path I was going down to the right one that ultimately leads to eternal life, not death.

If I had not come to the Ranch my life would still be in a complete mess. I know that Satan was all around and had ahold of me when I was young. When I came to the Ranch, I was allowed to come to a place that gives the opportunity to see what a family really is and where I can learn to be a man of integrity. The Ranch has made it possible for young kids like me be able to have a life where we don't have to worry what is going to happen to us.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to come to Pinehaven when I did because through you God saved my life. If I had not come to the Ranch, I would have moved on to college, let alone finish high school. I thank you and the staff members for taking kids that you do not even know and treating them like your own sons and daughters. I know that, for me, I can never call anywhere but Pinehaven home because that is where my heart will always be.

I was shown how to treat others with respect and to take care of myself and those around me. I now work in a locomotive shop where all I see are men who are lost – men who grew up with broken families like mine. They often ask me why I am not like them and why I will not do the things they do. I tell them that I was taught the consequences of the actions they are doing. I tell them that all I see in them is the same thing I see in my family – brokenness. And I tell them

that I want to be the one that ends the brokenness that I came from and start new.

While I was there, I was shown that there is more to life than the pleasures that we see every day; you can still have fun and not get into trouble that follows you for the rest of your life.

If I did something wrong there was always a consequence. I was not abused, but disciplined with things that I did not like to do - write sentences, have one on one time with a shovel in the cow pen, extra chores I did not like, etc. I am thankful for every time that I was disciplined. Without the discipline and structure that I received at Pinehaven, I would not be anywhere near the man that I am today.

Korey Green, Pinehaven Class of 2012

Date: 18 February 2015

RE: BILL TO REQUIRE LICENSING FOR ADJUNCT MINISTRY OF A CHURCH SCHOOL

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dan Yonkin. I have worked for the Lake County sheriffs office since becoming a reserve deputy in 1999. Since that time, I have served as a detention officer, a patrol deputy, a detective, and as Lake County's Undersheriff. In addition to being a deputy sheriff, I have also been a foster parent since 1997 and have served as the chair person for the local foster care review committee that meets monthly to review children's cases who are in care. During my more than eight years tenure as a detective, I specialized in cases involving child abuse and neglect as well as cases involving sexual violence.

My first encounter with Pine Haven Youth Ranch involved a case which was reported to the Sheriffs Office directly by the director of the youth ranch, Andy Larsson. In that case, Andy had reason to believe that one of his trusted teachers had been engaging in sexual acts with two 15 year old students. Not only did Andy provide an open door environment in which we could investigate properly, he also arranged for the suspect to be present for an interview. Undoubtably Andy's complete cooperation with the investigation led to a successful prosecution of the perpetrator. I would like to note also that the suspect male along with his wife were longtime friends of the Larsson's. In spite of this deep friendship, Andy was more than willing to cooperate from the beginning without challenge.

This level of cooperation has continued throughout the many years I've had the opportunity to work with the staff and students at Pine Haven. I was still working as a detective when the now famous complaint against Pine Haven was filed. At that time, the case was assigned to a different Detective in my office. In general terms, the complaint was that bad things were happening to children at Pine Haven. Specifically what bad things and which children were to become the focus of a fairly short investigation. A short investigation due to the fact that the complainant failed to provide investigators any details or names that would allow for any real follow-up.

Again, the administration at the school remained fully cooperative and willing to assist in any investigation should more specific details ever be made known. In addition, the Sheriff's Office was welcomed to stop by the school at any time to check the health and welfare of the students. This was done and no issues were ever reported to the detective who visited.

At one point, I observed a self proclaimed victim appear on a national television news broadcast; I was in Seoul South Korea at the time. The male claimed that he had been sexually assaulted many years before while attending the youth ranch. The male went on to state that he had never reported the incident to anyone while at the youth ranch and that the incident occurred between he and a 16-year-old peer at the time.

In stark contrast to the way I've observed Pine Haven has been operated, I have also observed two facilities inside Lake County in which there were allegations of child abuse. One of those facilities was operated by an out-of-state business and was regulated by state oversight. In both cases, once the abuse was substantiated, parents and courts who had placed children in those the facilities swiftly removed their children and the facilities were closed.

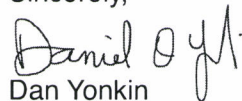
The rhetoric that surrounds the Pine Haven abuse accusations seems to have fueled a desire to interject government regulation into these types of private schools. Regulation that already exists in the form of child protective services and community law enforcement services.

In my years of experience, I've come to know that no one seems to have the exact formula for how to properly raise and educate children. In spite of all of the best efforts of the government, I believe there are often times that governmental intervention is the source of the problem, not the remedy. Forcing a facility such as Pine Haven to meet specific criteria will limit their ability to come up with the creative solutions that are often necessary when dealing with troubled youth. It also makes no sense since they're already being regulated in one fashion or another.

I urge anyone thinking of endorsing a bill which would create government oversight for private, church sponsored schools to reject any such legislation.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,


Dan Yonkin